

CHALLENGE



VOLUME 46, ISSUE 2

AUTUMN 2004

DOMINICAN CALL TO ACTION 2003 - 2006 REVISITED from the North American Promoters of Justice, Peace, and Care of Creation

“Creation is in crisis. Earth is crying out for justice, for making right the relationships among all creatures, for an honoring of the covenant that God made with Earth in Genesis thus restoring the integrity of creation: ‘And God said to Noah, I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the Earth...This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all mortal creatures that are on Earth.’ (Gn 9:13,17) We hear Earth’s cry in oppressed peoples, in poisoned soils and rivers and airways, in plant and animal creatures facing extinction. We stand in solidarity with millions of our sisters and brothers around the world who have endorsed the Earth Charter, whose principles we also espouse. ‘God looked at everything that was made and found it very good.’ (Gn 1:31)

*“As followers of Dominic, we stand in the tradition of Albert and Thomas, Eckhart and Catherine. We embrace all of creation as imbued with God’s goodness. Even more, we proclaim the sacredness of all life, believing it is the manifestation of God’s divine love. As our brother Thomas tells us, ‘All creatures have within them a trace of the Trinity; within all creation there resides an image of God.’ As Dominicans, we challenge the systems that dominate and oppress our world. We are **Preachers**, who must speak a Truth that liberates all. In our **Study**, we must integrate the issues facing us in order to offer the world an understanding of the inter-relatedness of all creation. We must be faithful to **Prayer**, which sustains the world’s hope. And in our **Communities**, we must model*

(turn to page 10)

Faithful Citizenship A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility

“In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in the political process is a moral obligation. All believers are called to faithful citizenship to become informed, active and responsible participants in the political process.”

Faithful Citizenship 2003

U.S. Catholic Bishops, in their role as teachers, seek to educate the laity on the moral dimensions of public policies and on the responsibility for all Catholics to form their consciences in light of their faith. In their 2003 statement, “Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility,” the bishops concluded, “The 2004 elections and the policy choices we will face in the future pose significant challenges for our Church. As an institution, we are called to be **political but not partisan**. The Church cannot be a chaplain for any one party or cheerleader for any candidate. Our cause is the protection of the weak and vulnerable and defense of human life and dignity, not a particular party or candidate.

(turn to page 9)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Promoter’s Page	2
From the President	3
Chapter Happenings	4
Liturgical Calendar	7
Year-end Budget Report	8
Dominican Web Sites	9
Provincial Council Abbreviated Minutes	11

- Visit us at www.op.org/oplaity
- Learn more about the Dominican Family and current news events at www.domlife.org
- Send Dominican Laity information requests, questions for the President, and supply orders to:
Mrs. Ruth Kummer, OP
3904 Golfside Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197-8616
- Send Chapter Meeting Report Forms, Challenge articles, and non-member newsletter subscription requests (\$10 yearly) to:
Mr. Joe Komadina, OP
6672 Oakland Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63139-3203
- Send provincial dues and Fund Drive contributions to:
Dominican Laity Office
P. O. Box 085451
Racine, WI 53408-5451

P R O M O T E R S ' P A G E**by Fr. Jim Motl, OP, Central Province Promoter for the Dominican Laity**

I am writing my fall column on the Twenty-second Sunday of Ordinary Time. The Gospel for the day climaxes with the remarkable saying of Jesus, "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled, and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted." The first image this brings to my mind is a ticket line or a supermarket line with everybody pushing to get to the rear of the line in order to be first. Jesus has more in mind here, however, than a reverse strategy for getting ahead. My response, in fact, shows how thoroughly I am infected with the competitive atmosphere of the contemporary world. The Olympic games that we observed in late August highlight the competitiveness of our society. The attention of American media focused on gold medals, the winners, the best in the world. Often taking a silver medal was portrayed as a loss, a disgrace. Even when the difference between first and second place was timed in thousandths of a second what called for attention was the win. Against this background what chance of being heard does a call to be last in people's estimation have?

The real question is, does humbling yourself mean being last. For Jesus it did not. There can be no doubt that in urging his disciples to humble themselves he was asking them to follow in his footsteps. He, though Messiah and God, came as the son of a carpenter from Galilee. As a preacher and wonder worker, he attracted large crowds but remained a wandering preacher both admired and scorned. In the end, scorn seemed to triumph over admiration. Jesus was humbled on the cross. Thousands of his followers willingly followed him to death in succeeding generations. Today their example calls us to follow in their footsteps. This call, however, is not one that summons us to make less of ourselves than we really are. Jesus and his disciples certainly did not do that. Rather they made fullest use of the talents God had given them in order to make known the great love God has for the people He has created and called to his Kingdom. Following their example means for us self-examination not only for our sins, but also for the gifts God has given us. Only when we recognize our gifts can we begin to ask God to show us how best to use them to bring Jesus' Kingdom call to people in our times. That was Dominic's understanding of his call to follow Christ, and it should be ours.

Several people have shown me in the past few months that the spirit of Jesus and of Dominic live on. Having completed the *Challenge* editor's two three-year terms as specified in our By-laws, Mary Lee Odders announced at the last Provincial Council meeting that she was seeking a replacement and has advertised such in the Spring 2004 *Challenge*. One member has offered to become the new editor, Joseph Komadina, a long-time member of Queen of the Holy Rosary Chapter in St. Louis. Joe is a past moderator of that chapter. He is familiar with the technology necessary to produce the newsletter and is acquainted with many aspects of the Lay Dominicans of St. Albert's Province. He was approved by a majority of the members of the Executive Board of the Provincial Council and has been confirmed by Ruth Kummer to become the new editor after this issue of *Challenge*. I want to thank Joe for his generosity in accepting this responsibility. I also want to thank Mary Lee for the years she has given to publishing *Challenge* at the same time that she acted as Provincial Treasurer. I thank her for her timely reminders to me to get the Promoter's Page in on time and for seeking interesting and valuable materials to make the newsletter more than an information page. Mary Lee and now Joe both provide us with examples of recognizing personal gifts and offering them for the service of Lay Dominicans throughout the Province.

Guy Murphy and the River Forest Chapter worked with lay members of other religious orders again this year to sponsor "A Celebration in Thanksgiving for Lay Orders" on September 25 at Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica in Chicago. Last year's celebration was a great success, as I trust this year's was. I hope that if there is a similar event in your area, you can attend it or help to sponsor it. If you need some help in getting this kind of celebration started in your area, I'm sure that Guy would be happy to offer suggestions.

Ruth Kummer has been working at filling a number of positions created by the Provincial Council and Executive Board meetings last March. The Council asked that a new Development Committee be set up to prepare plans for increasing the membership of our Province by helping existing chapters to grow and by developing a strategy for establishing new chapters. That Committee will meet for the first time in October. Ruth is also establishing stronger contacts with two Iraqi chapters in the Detroit area. These contacts have the potential of expanding our provincial membership by several hundred Lay Dominicans. (turn to page

5)

FROM THE PRESIDENT
by Ruth Kummer, OP, Central Province President of the Dominican Laity

Today's reading is from 1 Corinthians 3:1-9, but a suggestion is to read chapter 3 and 4. Paul shows us the place of the Christian Preacher. Like Paul and Apollos, one plants, another waters and nurtures, while another will harvest. As each task is accomplished, the architecture and the foundation must be careful work. Jesus himself lays the foundation. On this foundation, we build with gold, silver, jewels or in wood and straw. As a Dominican, one cannot share what has not been filtered in our heart and mind to be owned as a Lay Dominican Preacher. Each person preaches as he/she encounters another person. How one cares for the creation with personal use of resources and the disposition of our personal/worldly resources. (I still wrestle with what to do with "stuff" accumulated and just yesterday a gift treasured by the giver was given and received.)

Fr. Jim Motl expresses well the generosity of Mary Lee Odders as the editor of *Challenge* and the development of electronic formatting. She even sent reminders as the due date approached. When Joseph Komadina accepted the editorship, I too, appreciated that Jesus and Dominic live on. Congratulations for work well done, Mary Lee, and Joe, in your new career!

An issue that is forever on the agenda is the Formation Program. My last contact with Edward Chong-Ling was that the material is digitized but not edited. A recent contact with the moderator of his chapter commented that his work sends him to do training of staff in the State of Illinois. Truly a 21st century mendicant living out of his suitcase with a laptop! As a temporary resolution, I recommend that the chapters purchase copies of *Dominicana: Guidebook for Inquirers* by Robert Curtis, OPL directly from www.lulu.com or Amazon.com for \$12.95 a copy. The text can be a review for all Laity to prepare them to be a mentor for a guest and inquirer before reception. Others who read our *Challenge* on the Internet, but are not connected to a chapter, please use the address in the *Challenge* or r.kummer@worldnet.att.net.

After a discussion regarding "if" and "when," we may have books for Dominican Prayers: Liturgy of the Hours. The horizon does not look like a change will be available for some time. I suggest that the chapters use the red *Christian Prayer: The Liturgy of the Hours*. The four volumes are more expensive. If you do not live near a store that carries religious material, a prepaid order can be sent to you. On our visitation, it was apparent that we are not able to pay out of a common book.

The length of time passing since the Executive Council suggested names for positions is months. Some of the reasons regarding why you have not heard the status include: meeting with the facilitator for the development meeting; changing the time from September to October; time of work shifts; changes in time zone; finding a place to meet; waiting for a return call; calling a person a 2nd, 3rd, 4th time and waiting for a return call; and being part of my own family activities. As you know, multi-tasking is more than a concept, we are living it.

Those who were able to accept the invitation will be meeting in DeWitt, MI (near Lansing) from Friday, October 8 – Sunday, October 10. Each will receive detailed information. A summary of the meeting will be sent to each chapter for consideration and feedback.

A unique gem is available to Dominican Laity. St. Catherine of Siena Center, Priory Campus of Dominican University in River Forest, IL is presenting topics from September 7 to December 6. You may contact the conference center by calling (708) 714-9110, siena@dom.edu or www.Siena.dom.edu. I encourage every layperson in the vicinity to attend. The fee is a donation. Even a generous donation is accepted!

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CHAPTERS

ALBUQUERQUE, NM NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LAS MONTAÑAS PRO-CHAPTER

Members are asking for prayers as many of them are experiencing life changes.

ANN ARBOR, MI ST. CATHERINE OF SIENNA INFORMAL GROUP

Sick: Barbara Parsons

BAY CITY, MI BL. JOHN DOMINICI CHAPTER

Sick: Kathryn Dawson

Dominican Spirituality by Erik Borgman is their current chapter study.

DENVER, CO ST. DOMINIC CHAPTER

Sick: Jim Bacon, Jim Steffens, and Edisa Vest

A 28" St. Dominic statue imported from Vietnam was presented to Chapter Moderator Jim Steffens by the Queen of Vietnamese Martyrs Chapter of Vietnamese Dominican Laity based at Queen of Vietnamese Martyrs Parish in Wheat Ridge. The statue was displayed and blessed on September 4. Along with the statue, the Vietnamese Chapter submitted their certificates of Life Profession, of which there are six, as part of becoming a chapter in the Central Province. They have 11 who have made first profession and four studying for first profession, with many more interested.

DUBUQUE, IA ST. ROSE OF LIMA CHAPTER

Sick: Deanna Koopmann's son, Jack and Dorothy Shanahan

Their chapter study is the *Encyclical on the Eucharist*.

FARMINGTON HILLS, MI BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPTER

Sick: Cynthia Dulay

Died: Formation Director Alice Bechard in June. She transferred from St. Dominic Chapter, Detroit.

GRAND RAPIDS, MI OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHAPTER

Congratulations: Moderator Irma M. Hedgpeth, Formation Director Alice Eizel, Secretary Lynne Niewick, Spiritual Director Fr. Mark E. Mitchell, and Treasurer Emilie Farage
Their chapter enjoyed a St. Dominic Day picnic.

MILWAUKEE, WI QUEEN OF THE ROSARY CHAPTER

Sick: Marcie Boyer, Karen Sabourin, and Pat Walters

RIVER FOREST, IL ST. VINCENT FERRER CHAPTER

Congratulations: Spiritual Director Fr. Bede Jagoe, OP and Formation Director Brenda Intengan

Sick: Kay Watson

Members assisted in financing the September 25 Celebration for Lay Orders at which they volunteered.

ROCKFORD, IL ST. PETER MARTYR CHAPTER

Received: Andrea Lego on March 13

Bread of the Lamb, an encyclical on the Eucharist, is the current chapter study.

ST. LOUIS, MO QUEEN OF THE HOLY ROSARY CHAPTER

Died: Barbara Josephine Jaroschka on June 26 and Trisha Moore's father on May 11

A Feast of St. Dominic picnic was attended by "the whole chapter, several friars, along with our friends from church and our neighbors (not necessarily practicing Catholics). Seems everyone had fun, ate a lot, enjoyed each other. Surprise was that the Evening Prayer was most interesting to the neighbors, who had never experienced such a thing. And apparently liked it." Their chapter study book, *Stay Tuned* by Leonard A. Sroka, is generating much discussion.

SPRINGFIELD, IL OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART CHAPTER

Received: Barbara Hattes, Ann Howarth-Raa, and Mary Clara Johnson on February 28

Sick: George Eck

Died: Loretta Green in March 2004

This chapter is studying *Essentials of Faith*. At their April meeting, Fr. Frank Westhoff spoke on the Book of Revelations and warned of the *Left Behind* book series. In August, Sr. Margaret Schreiber, OP, spoke on the historical and theological perspectives of the Liturgy of the Hours.

WEST LAFAYETTE, IN ST. MARY MAGDALENE INFORMAL GROUP

They are studying *Catholic Christianity* by P. J. Kreeft.

OUR PRIVATE MEMBERS

Sick: Louise Lewright, Gillespie, IL; Jill O'Brien's mother, sister, and brother-in-law, Chicago, IL

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

- a return to health for all members of the Order who are ill
- an increase in vocations to all branches of the Dominican Order
- the success of the United States Dominicans' Conversation meeting in October
- the guidance of the Holy Spirit for the Development Committee meeting from October 8-10

In Loving Memory of

Cynthia Ricard, Secretary of the Queen of the Rosary Chapter in St. Louis, MO, graciously notifies us that Barbara Josephine Jaroschka passed away on June 26 in Bernard Care Center, St Louis, MO. She had no living relatives. She was a member of the Queen of the Rosary Chapter, where she was received December 5, 1999 and professed March 4, 2001. Barbara was born on April 29, 1926 in Vienna, Austria and was consecrated as a Sister of the Opus Sanctorum Angelorum at Holy Cross Monastery. Later she was a refugee to Caracas, Venezuela, where she earned a PhD in Psychology from the Catholic University of Andres Bello in 1978.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FUND DRIVE CONTRIBUTIONS

Thurlow Caffey; Mary Jean Cauley; Joan and Robert Engel; Evelyne Hayny; Marion Keegan; Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Chapter, Springfield, IL; Genevieve Ozanic; Frances Plass; Queen of the Rosary Chapter, Milwaukee, WI; Mary Rhomberg; James Steffens; Carmella Wawrzyniak; and four anonymous donors.

If you would like to support our Province's Dominican Laity work for your benefit by contributing to our annual Fund Drive, please direct your check to: Dominican Laity Office; P. O. Box 085451; Racine, WI 53408-5451. Thank you for considering the Dominican Laity's work important enough for your financial support. We promise to be good stewards.

Promoter's Page from page 2 In my summer Promoter's Page, I reported the establishment of a new Vietnamese chapter in Denver with the help of Jim Steffens. I will be going to Kansas City, Missouri, in a few weeks to see if we can get a new chapter started there. We can do still more to make a Dominican lay way of life available to people who want to live out our ideals of prayer, study, community, and ministry. I hope that the Development Committee will help us all learn how to be humble, that is, to discover and use our talents to extend our Dominican way of following Christ to as many as we can.

2004 FUND DRIVE CONTINUES

Dear Fellow Dominican Laity Member,

As we receive no subsidy from the friars, we depend on your \$30 dues payments and Fund Drive contributions to cover our expenses. Although some members may have thought the Irvine Bequest would provide our income, Mr. Irvine verbally requested that the bequest NOT be used for day-to-day costs. As such, the Provincial Council voted to earmark bequest funds for our members' formation. We maintain a modest budget and rely entirely on the volunteer labor of Laity members. Last year we made severe budget reductions in order to bring our expenses in line with our flagging income. We succeeded, and now would like to restore our newsletter to its previous size. Our newsletter benefits all our members, both chapter and private.

Our largest projected expenses for 2004-'05 are: newsletter printing \$850; postage \$893; Promoter's expenses \$1,500; travel to meetings \$2,000; room and board at meetings \$2,600 and International Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities \$500. We need your financial help and pledge that we will be responsible stewards of the same.

Would you please demonstrate a Dominican spirit of community and consider making an individual or chapter donation to assist us in maintaining a quality level of service to you? Please send your check made payable to DOMINICAN LAITY to:

Dominican Laity Office
P. O. Box 85451
Racine, WI 53408-5451

Thank you in advance. Donor names will be featured in the next issue of *Challenge*.

Yours in Saints Dominic and Catherine,

Mary Lee

Mary Lee Odders, OP
Provincial Treasurer

----- cut and return -----

Thank you for your 2004 Fund Drive contribution, which supports our Province's Dominican Laity work for your benefit. In gratitude, your name will be included in a contributors' listing featured in the next *Challenge*, unless you indicate otherwise below.

() I do NOT want my name included in the listing of contributors. I prefer to remain anonymous.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY,STATE,ZIP _____

DOMINICAN LITURGICAL CALENDAR

September 2004

26- 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time,
Hours Week II

28- St. Dominic Ibanez de Erquicia and
Companions

October 2004

3- 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time,
Hours Week III

4- Holy Father Francis of Assisi, religious (F)

5- Bl. Raymond of Capua

6- Bl. Bartolo Longo, lay Dominican

7- Our Lady of the Rosary (F)

8- Bl. Ambrose Sansedone, priest

- Bl. Matthew Carreri, priest

9- St. Louis Bertrand, priest (M)

10- 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time,
Hours Week IV

11- Bl. James of Ulm, religious

13- Bl. Magdalen Panatieri, lay Dominican

14- Bl. Marie Poussepin, lay Dominican

17- 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time,
Hours Week I

21- Bl. Peter of Città di Castello, priest

22- Ann. of the Dedication of a Church (S)

24- 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time,
Hours Week II

25- Bl. Peter Geremia, priest

27- Bl. Bartholomew of Vicenza

30- Bl. Benvenuta Bojani, lay Dominican

- Bls. Terence O'Brien, bishop, and

Peter Higgins, priest; martyrs

31- 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time,
Hours Week III

November 2004

1- All Saints (S)

2- All Souls*

3- St. Martin de Porres, religious (F)

5- Bl. Simon Ballachi, religious

6- Bl. Francis de Capillas and Alphonsus
Navarrete, priests, and Companions,
martyrs (M)

7- 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time,
Hours Week IV

8- Anniversary of Deceased Brothers and
Sisters of the Order*

9- Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in
Rome (F)

14- 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time,
Hours Week I

15- St. Albert the Great, bishop/doctor (S)

19- Bl. James Benefatti, bishop

21- Christ the King (S), Hours Week II

24- Ss. Ignatius Delgado, bishop, Vincent

Liem, priest, Dominic An-Kham lay Do-
minican, and Companions, martyrs (M)

25- Bl. Margaret of Savoy, religious

28- 1st Sunday of Advent, Hours Week I

December 2004

1- Bl. John of Vercelli, priest

5- 2nd Sunday of Advent, Hours Week II

8- The Immaculate Conception (S)

12- 3rd Sunday of Advent, Hours Week III

16- Bl. Sebastian Maggi, priest

19- 4th Sunday of Advent, Hours Week IV

25- Christmas (S)

26- The Holy Family (F), Hours Week I

January 2005

1- Mary, Mother of God (S)

2- Epiphany of the Lord (S),
Hours Week II

(S) Solemnity (F) Feast

(M) Memorial (OM) Optional Memorial

* Office for the
Dead is prayed

Year-end Report for Fiscal Year July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004

<u>UNRESTRICTED EXPENSES</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<u>Account #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>7/01/03 - 6/30/04</u>	<u>7/01/03 - 6/30/04</u>	<u>7/01/04 - 6/30/05</u>
5101	Office Supplies	\$ 140.31	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
5106	Postage	\$ 545.65	\$ 810.00	\$ 893.00 ¹
5111	Stationery & Printing	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 0.00
5116	Xerox	\$ 137.37	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
5122	Apostolate Library	\$ 77.45	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00 ²
5126	Telephone	\$ 0.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
5141	Travel	\$ 1,704.40	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00 ³
5144	Housing, Room and Board	\$ 5,791.77	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,600.00 ⁴
5162	DomCentral Online Services	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
5172	Contributions to Non-owned Apostolates	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 200.00 ⁵
5175	Gifts	\$ 245.05	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00 ⁶
6131	Newsletter Printing	\$ 836.50	\$ 1,128.00	\$ 850.00 ⁷
6191	Merchandise for Resale	\$ 0.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00 ⁸
6208	Post Office Box Rental	\$ 38.00	\$ 38.00	\$ 38.00
6305	Car Rental	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
6511	Office Equipment Less \$100	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
6601	Office Equipment Over \$100	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
7512	DLIPC Mtg. Hospitality	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
9892	Secretarial Services	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
9893	ICLDF Dev. (Solidarity Fund)	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00 ⁹
9894	Promoter's Expenses	\$ 1,007.22	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
9897	Accounting Consultation	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 300.00 ¹⁰
	Totals	\$ 11,323.72	\$ 9,581.00	\$ 9,686.00
	<u>UNRESTRICTED INCOME</u>	<u>\$ 12,840.35</u>	<u>\$ 9,814.45</u>	<u>\$ 9,814.45</u>

¹ Quarterly *Challenge* newsletter mailings of Autumn '04, Winter '05, Spring '05, and Summer '05: \$103.60 (37 cents x 280 one-ounce copies) x 2 issues = **\$207.20** + **\$168** (60 cents x 280 two-ounce copies) + **\$271.60** (97 cents x 280 two-ounce copies); officers' postage **\$200**; and postage increase allowance **\$46.20**

² 2005 Dominican Liturgical Calendars for chapters

³ United States Dominican Family Conversation, October 2004; PARABLE Advisory Board meeting, January 2005; Justice, Peace, and Care of Creation meeting, New Orleans, LA, July 9-13, 2005; and InterProvincial Council meeting, Washington, D.C., June 2005

⁴ Above listed meetings

⁵ Midwest Promoters of Preaching

⁶ Funeral flowers, Masses, memorials, and commemoratives

⁷ Quarterly *Challenge* newsletter's printing, collating, single fold and scoring fees: \$175 (280 copies of 10 pages each) x 2 issues = **\$350** + **\$225** (280 copies of 12 pages each) + **\$275** (280 copies of 16 pages each)

⁸ Purchase of scapulars, medals, and crosses

⁹ International Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities (ICLDF) yearly contribution for development

¹⁰ Filing informational tax return

COMMENTARY ON FISCAL YEAR-END BUDGET REPORT

by Mary Lee Odders, OP, Dominican Laity Provincial Treasurer

The Year-end Budget Report for Fiscal Year July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004 appears on page 8. Briefly in this format, the various types of expenses are detailed in the left column. Actual expenses and budgeted expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004 are listed in the middle columns. The right column is our approved budget for the new fiscal year, which began on July 1, 2004. Budget cuts during the recently completed fiscal year brought our expenses more in line with our income.

The term "Ordinary Income" includes provincial dues, Fund Drive contributions, *Challenge* newsletter subscriptions, Provincial Council contributions, interest on our savings accounts, and an Irvine Estate annuity. Ordinary Income increased during this fiscal year resulting in a surplus budget.

Bylaw-mandated chapter visitations by our Laity President Ruth Kummer and Laity Promoter Fr. Jim Motl were completed in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004.

Please send written comments regarding the publication of this year-end report to me at the Dominican Laity Office address listed on page 1. Such comments will be shared at the September 2005 Provincial Council meeting.

DOMINICAN WEB SITES OF INTEREST

Main Dominican web site: www.op.org/; Central Province: www.domcentral.org/; Western Province: www.op.org/opwest/; Dominican Life Online Magazine: www.domlife.org/; Dominican News Service: www.news.op.org/; Dominicans for Justice and Peace at the U.N. in Geneva, Switzerland: www.un.op.org/; International Commission for Justice, Peace and Care of Creation: www.op.org/curia/jpc/jpeng.html/; The Dominican Leadership Conference's NGO Representative at the U.N. in New York City: www.op.org/dlc/ngo@un/default.htm/; Dominican Alliance: www.dominican-sisters.net/alliance/; 8th Day Center: www.8thdaycenter.org/; Dominican Family Worldwide: www.groups.msn.com/DominicanFamilyWorldwide/; and "There Must Be Another Way" Fasting/Prayer, September 2002 and May 2004: www.dominicanfastforpeace.org/

Faithful Citizenship *from page 1* "The Church is called to be **principled but not ideological**. We cannot compromise our basic values or teaching, but we should be open to different ways to advance them.

"We are called to be **clear but also civil**. A Church that advocates justice and charity must practice these virtues in public life. We should be clear about our principles and priorities, without impugning motives or name-calling.

"The Church is called to be **engaged but not used**. We welcome dialogue with political leaders and candidates, seeking to engage and persuade public officials. But we must be sure that events and "photo-ops" are not substitutes for work on policies that reflect our values.

"The call to faithful citizenship raises a fundamental question for all of us. What does it mean to be a Catholic living in the United States in the year 2004 and beyond? As *Catholics*, the election and the policy choices that follow it call us to recommit ourselves to carry the values of the Gospel and church teaching into the public square. As *citizens and residents of the United States*, we have the duty to participate now and in the future in the debates and choices over the values, vision, and leaders that will guide our nation.

"This dual calling of faith and citizenship is at the heart of what it means to be a Catholic in the United States. Faithful citizenship calls us to seek "a place at the table" of life for all God's children in the elections of 2004 and beyond."

from www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship

For the full text of "Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility," liturgical and preaching resources, and a Family Guide for Faithful Citizenship, visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' web site www.usccb.org Make your wishes known by exercising your right to vote Tuesday, November 2.

Call to Action from page 1 *a lifestyle that promotes an equitable, mutually enhancing life for the entire community of creation.*

“In this spirit, we invite the response of all Dominicans to this Call to Action 2003-2006. We offer this Dominican Call to Action on behalf of the entire Earth Community, believing that any work that strives to establish right relationships on this planet is the work of justice.” Elkins Park, PA, June 29-July 3, 2003

St. Louis, MO—At their June 26-30, 2004 meeting, the Promoters affirmed the Call to Action document as the main document for our justice action and these recommendations are a renewal of that call:

IRAQ As a result of this meeting, **we recommend that the Iraq Coordinating Committee:** 1) develop a plan to disseminate to key members of Congress and others the **Report of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights about Iraq: The present situation of human rights in Iraq**, released on June 4, 2004; 2) develop a travel photo exhibit that includes the 250 year history of the Dominican Family in Iraq and stories of our recent experience with the people of Iraq – eliciting the help of the Dominican Alliance; 3) initiate two activities each year that involve the Dominican Family in the United States; 4) initiate a conversation with the DLC [Dominican Leadership Conference] executive committee to ascertain the ongoing viability of the Iraq Coordinating Committee. We also recommend that our **U.N. representatives:** 1) New York - initiate a relationship with Mr. [John] Danforth, the new U.S. ambassador (representative), to the U.N.; 2) Geneva – continue giving oral and written interventions at the U.N. Commission on Human Rights in support of issues of concern to the promoters.

TRAFFICKING **We recommend that:** 1) “The trafficking working group” identify the attendees of the **USCCB** [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops] Baltimore Conference, and ask them to develop usable resources; 2) We contact the **IJPCC** [International Commission for Justice, Peace and Care of Creation] to make recommendations for action in the U.S. at the General Meeting in 2005; 3) Eileen Gannon [Non-Governmental Organization representative at the U.N. and chairperson of the NGO Iraq Commission] contact the members of the trafficking working group to investigate the feasibility of intensifying their role; and 4) This issue of trafficking be placed on the [U.S. Dominican] Federation agenda.

COLOMBIA We reaffirm Marta Toro’s ongoing role as contact person for questions and updates regarding the situation in Colombia. **Recommendations include:** 1) to collect and share information regarding congregations and provinces use of corporate investments as a response to the DCTA [Dominican Call to Action] issues. [Investigate what] more can be done in this area; 2) to intensify the Dominican involvement in the campaign to close SOA [School of the Americas]; 3) to ask those serving in Colombia to compile and disseminate the history of the Dominicans in Colombia; 4) to gather and publish stories of Dominicans in Colombia especially with links to SOA in order to remind us that, “**We have family in Colombia;**” and 5) to ask PARABLE or Witness for Peace to coordinate a Dominican immersion experience in Colombia. **Recommendations to the International Justice Planning Committee of 2005 meeting are:** 1) to provide opportunities for participants to connect with as many Dominicans and their ministries as possible; experience the reality of life in Colombia; study the political, social, and ecclesial reality of the people; and listen to what the people need and want to say to us; and 2) to issue a statement of support and solidarity from the International Community to the Dominican Family in Colombia as the final act of the meeting.

IMMIGRATION We commend all those who participated in the Freedom Ride last fall. We promote support for legislation that rewards work by legal status and citizenship for undocumented residents and laborers, promotes reunification of families, enforces worker safety and justice in the work place, and promotes just wages for workers. We invite our communities to be informed about the effects of the Patriot Act on the undocumented. We encourage Dominican parishes and institutions to support and empower undocumented immigrants.

MIDDLE EAST - ISRAEL/ PALESTINE **We recommend that we:** 1) focus on the separation WALL and its impact on the lives of people, especially children; 2) circulate a list of resources including web site on this issue; and 3) continue to support the Palestinian Solidarity Project. **A General Recommendation is** that the Justice Promoters would intensify their collaboration with the Dominican Preachers and Communicators.

from Joyce Calagos, OPL, Western Province Lay Promoter of Justice, Peace and Care of Creation

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING'S ABBREVIATED MINUTES, MARCH 25-28, 2004

Voting Members Present: Edward Chong-Ling (Springfield, IL); Eugene Dell (Denver, CO); Ruth Kummer (President); Robert McAuliffe (Minneapolis, MN); Terry McSweeney (Farmington Hills, MI); Fr. James Motl (Provincial Promoter); Guy Murphy (Vice-President); Harvey Newcomb (Rockford, IL); Jill O'Brien (Secretary); Mary Lee Odders (Treasurer and *Challenge* Editor); Cynthia Ricard (St. Louis, MO); Karen Sabourin (Milwaukee, WI); Lois Tomaszewski (Bay City, MI); Bess Torralba (River Forest, IL); Kathy Wagner (West Lafayette, IN); and Doris Wiederholt (Dubuque, IA)

At St. John Center for Youth and Family in Plymouth, MI, the meeting opened at 7:00 PM with a welcome and introductions by President Ruth Kummer. Fr. Jacob Yasso, a Chaldean Rite (Eastern Rite Catholic Church) priest and long-time spiritual director to Dominican Laity chapters in Detroit, informally addressed the members of the Provincial Council and introduced five members of his area chapters. Most Dominican Laity members within Chaldean Rite parishes are immigrants from Iraq. In Detroit, active Dominican Laity groups exist within the parishes of Mary Mother of God, St. Thomas, and St. Dominic. Fr. Yasso served as translator for the subsequent address by Fr. Louis Morrone, past Vocation Director for the Dominican Friars in the Province of St. Albert the Great and newly-named Novice Master.

Fr. Morrone discussed the importance of health formation practices within all branches of the Order, focussing on the meaning of formation and discernment practices for Dominican Laity and raising a series of questions requiring careful and specific answers. He challenged the Provincial Council to reflect on central questions with an awareness that discernment is a process that cannot be rushed and that must be responsive to the way the Holy Spirit moves.

The Farmington Hills, MI Chapter provided hospitality before and after this opening session.

On Friday morning, March 26, following liturgy and Morning Prayer, President Ruth Kummer called the meeting to order. **A motion to accept the minutes of the last DL Provincial Council meeting as amended was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.** Ruth agreed to have the amended minutes of the October 2002 Provincial Council meeting distributed by May 1, 2004. Mary Lee Odders, *Challenge* Editor, agreed to print the abstracted, amended minutes of the October 2002 Provincial Council meeting in the Summer 2004 issue.

Discussion on formation led to a definition of the phases of formation: Guest/Inquirer—early stage of visitation and inquiry; application is filed eventually and, if accepted, marks transition to next phase. Initiate—approximately six-month period of introductory study and meeting attendance; gradual incorporation into the community begins; and phase ends with reception into Dominican Laity, receiving the scapular of the Order. Candidacy I—period of about one year of study and regular participation in chapter life, and ends with first profession. Candidacy II—period of approximately three years (first profession interval) wherein candidate fully lives Dominican Lay life, and ends when candidate makes final profession (life long). Ongoing Formation—period after final profession wherein member continues to grow, respond, and contribute in response to discernment graces and continued study, prayer, ministry and community life.

A motion to create an ad hoc committee to evaluate formation materials from other provinces as well as within the province and to make a recommendation to the Provincial Council before departure was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. Edward Chong-Ling agreed to serve as committee chair. Guy Murphy, Kathy Wagner, Louann Adcock, Lois Tomaszewski, and Bess Torralba agreed to be committee members. **A motion to disband the current, standing Formation Committee was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.**

Challenge Editor, Mary Lee Odders, reported the newsletter is in its seventh year under lay editorship. 185 copies are mailed to chapter membership, 49 to private members, and 57 copies are sent to select Dominican houses and to Dominican Laity officers in other provinces. *Challenge* is posted online at domcentral.org. With members retiring and living on limited, fixed incomes or experiencing a "hard financial time," it was suggested that chapters consider paying \$5 to cover postage and printing on behalf of a stressed member, thus assisting the publication in meeting its operational costs. Mary Lee is completing her second term as allowed in the By-laws and issued a call for a replacement. The new editor will be announced in a future *Challenge*. (turn to page 12)

Minutes from page 11 Mary Lee recommended continuing annual mailing list updating, educational newsletter inserts, and monthly filing of Chapter Meeting Report Forms by chapter secretaries.

In outreach reports, Central Province Lay Promoter of Justice, Peace and Care of Creation, Edward Chong-Ling, discussed the Dominican Call to Action 2003-2006, challenging members to inventively consider how DL can endorse and further the outlined objectives. Cynthia Ricard reported that with Barry McQuillan of the Western Province, Fr. Jim Motl and she initiated *Family Helping Family: The Iraq Project*, a continuing effort beginning on April 29, 2003 to provide direct monetary assistance to Iraqi Dominican Laity members. With a goal of \$5,000, at this point \$3,115 has been collected. Guy Murphy coordinated the August 9 Chicago-area Celebration in Thanksgiving for Lay Orders attended by approximately 600 members of lay orders and people interested in lay orders. There are plans to repeat the gathering in November 2004.

Ruth Kummer and Fr. Jim Motl summarized the findings of their chapter visitations completed in November 2003. Pictures and detailed visitation summaries are posted on domlife.org.

Delegates probed the distinctions between an informal group, prochapter, and chapter. After reference to existing documents (the Rule, the Handbook of Dominican Lay Leadership, and the By-laws) and discussion derived from best practices within the province over time, the following **multi-part motion was made and seconded:**

1. For the purposes of determining group status, those shall be considered members of a Chapter, Prochapter, or Informal Group who have attended at least half of the meetings of the group since the last Provincial Council.

2. The Dominican Laity Provincial Council makes decisions about the status of groups of Dominican Laity within the Province. Between Provincial Council meetings, the Executive Board has the authority to make such decisions. These Executive Board decisions take effect immediately and are submitted to the next Provincial Council for ratification.

3. It shall be the duty of the Provincial President to present to the Provincial Council a report about the condition of each chapter with a recommendation for change of status when that seems called for because of growth, decline, or insufficient membership existent within a group in the interval since the last Provincial Council.

Each part of the motion was voted on separately and passed unanimously.

Ruth Kummer reminded delegates that members must sign and return a Release of Information form for inclusion in the online membership directory. Due to printing and revision costs, a membership directory will not be printed for distribution.

Chapter reports included:

St. Dominic Chapter in Denver, CO has 21 members attending regularly. They held a retreat at the Marycrest Retreat Center, and *The Gospel of Luke* of the Colledgeville Series has been the chapter study.

St. Rose of Lima Chapter in Dubuque, IA reported 13 members meet monthly. They had an Ash Wednesday Retreat, a Day of Renewal with Fr. Motl, a January trip taking cookies to seniors, and an annual retreat of the Sinsinawa Dominican Conference Center. Their ongoing study is the second *Encyclical on the Eucharist* by Pope John Paul II.

St. Vincent Ferrer Chapter in River Forest, IL has 33 members attending monthly, with people in varied stages of formation. They had a retreat on the four pillars of the Dominican Order, a Lenten retreat for the friars and the public, a Day of Recollection on the rosary, and enrolled interested people in the Rosary Confraternity.

St. Peter Martyr Chapter in Rockford, IL has 15 active, one private, and three inactive members. Chapter studies include "Changes in the Rosary"; the film, *Bread of the Lamb*; Pope John Paul II's second *Encyclical on the Eucharist*; and select documents of Vatican II. The chapter held a luau on St. Dominic's feast day to which Secular Franciscans were invited, participated in World Day of Consecrated Life, and a Day of Recollection.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Chapter in Springfield, IL reported 20 members gather monthly. They are looking for early formation and ongoing formation ideas. Members held an open house and participated in their diocesan 150th anniversary, making a brochure for distribution.

(turn to page 13)

Minutes from page 12 **St. Mary Magdalene Informal Group in West Lafayette, IN** has eight active members meeting monthly. The group expended considerable effort on an early formation program and is anxious to share and to hear what others are doing as well. Tom Ryba from the University of Notre Dame has aided study in Christology and the Letters of St. Paul. Fr. Jim Barnett's work on Dominican Spirituality proved inspirational.

Blessed Sacrament Chapter in Farmington Hills, MI reported 22 members meet monthly. The chapter had a Day of Recollection with Fr. Jesse Cox. Chapter cooperative social outreaches include arranging air transport and surgery for a needy child, contributing \$500 to the cloistered Dominican Sisters in Farmington Hills, and contributing to the Family Helping Family: Iraq Project.

St. Catherine of Sienna Informal Group in Ann Arbor, MI has shared meals and study concluding with Evening Prayer. Though the numbers remain small, the association is warm and meaningful.

Blessed John Dominici Chapter in Bay City, MI has a community spirit and members who connect service with their Dominican vocation. Meetings incorporate socializing, business, study, and prayer.

Holy Rosary Chapter in Minneapolis, MN has 22 members meeting monthly and six members who passed away since the last Provincial Council meeting. Chapter studies included the life of Paschal Kelly, OP and a two-year examination of the *Gospel of Life*. They enjoyed a Retreat Day.

Queen of the Holy Rosary Chapter in St. Louis, MO is experiencing a substantial rejuvenation with 14 members meeting monthly, while three have become inactive. They hosted a Day of Recollection attended by 18 people, with two being from the Aquinas Institute. They are making a concerted outreach to Aquinas Institute students, and there is promise of future growth likely. Ongoing formation explored Simon Tugwell's *Way of Imperfection*.

Queen of the Rosary Chapter in Milwaukee, WI has 11 active members, with one inquirer and one private member. The chapter is interested in the possibility of pursuing joint projects with the Racine Dominican Associates.

In the interests of animating a focus on preaching within the province, Ruth requested three people offer reflections on preaching within Dominican Laity: Robert McAuliffe, Fr. Jim Motl, and Cynthia Ricard.

Robert McAuliffe provided an overview of a proposal for establishing a special preaching ministry for Dominican Laity, as detailed in his handout, "Some Ideas Regarding the Allocation of Some of the Monies From the Irvine Bequest to Initiate and Develop a Province-wide Special Preaching Ministry." Under the patronage of Holy Mary of Guadalupe, the star of the new evangelization of North America, it was suggested that a special preaching ministry be inaugurated that would: 1) introduce people to Mary's moving messages delivered to Juan Diego at Tepeyac, and 2) proceed to treatment of the "good news" message as it unfolds in the Gospels, thereby bringing people to Jesus, the Eucharist, and the Catholic Church in the second stage of evangelization. Such a ministry would allow existing members to be "renewed, re-invigorated, [and] re-motivated" by their education and formation as both Dominicans and preachers. New members could be attracted to Dominican Laity by "witnessing the missionary zeal of the 'special preachers.'"

Fr. Jim Motl provided some practical pedagogical recommendations for preaching based on his years teaching fundamental and advanced preaching strategies. He encouraged delegates to have short preaching experiences within chapter life, using the Office reading, a liturgical reading, saint's life, or theme as a basis, and he counseled preachers to make one major point and develop it for three minutes to situate the idea in the audience's minds. To become better preachers, we must become good listeners, listening to priests' liturgical homilies and discovering something about the Word as explored and hearing something that affects your heart.

Cynthia Ricard spoke about "How I Preach." She recommended: know the audience by taking time to understand the culture, concerns, ages and needs of listeners addressed; avoid trying to impress and keep the focus on the message, not the messenger, allowing the Holy Spirit to work; time the presentation and consider pairing preaching with reading, meditation, or music to enhance effectiveness; and wear one's Dominican cross and sign OP after your name in order to link the preaching with one's Dominican Lay identity.

On Friday, March 26, word arrived of the death of Bishop Ken Untener. Although no formal motion was made, delegates endorsed whatever response would be appropriate as chosen by Ruth and the other Michigan delegates.

(turn to page 14)

Minutes from page 13 Mary Lee Odders, Treasurer, reviewed the recent history of finances in the province: Dominican Laity's separation of checking and investment accounts from the friars' investment pool, the Irvine bequest (and its associated restriction for expenditures in educational inserts for *Challenge* and formation only as decided by the previous Provincial Council and as seemed in compliance with the donor's desire not to have funds used for operating expenses); and highlights from the Finance Committee meeting on September 13, 2003.

As Chair of the Finance Committee, Mary Lee introduced a draft of "By-laws of the Finance Committee of the Provincial Council of the Dominican Laity of St. Albert the Great Province in the United States of America" which stems from the deliberations of the standing Finance Committee. Delegates chose to have two members appointed to the Finance Committee based on financial expertise. The Finance Committee advises the President and the Provincial Council (who together with the President ultimately has responsibility for the stewardship of provincial finances), but between council meetings the committee also advises the Executive Board (Provincial Council officers and Promoter), which governs when the council is not in session. **A motion was made and seconded to approve as amended the "By-laws of the Finance Committee of the Provincial Council of the Dominican Laity of St. Albert the Great Province in the United States of America."** **Motion passed with one abstention and fifteen votes in favor.**

Mary Lee observed that written guidelines were needed to specify the investment policies that should shape Finance Committee practices. By formalizing such guidelines, Finance Committee members could act in accordance with the "thinking of the Council" during the interval between Provincial Council meetings. A draft of the "Investment Policy for Dominican Laity Province of St. Albert the Great, U. S. A." was presented. **A motion was made and seconded to accept the revised investment policy guidelines for Dominican Laity as proposed by the Finance Committee. The motion passed unanimously.**

Mary Lee explained that the Finance Committee and the Executive Board need to make funding decisions based on more complete information than currently is required and proposed a "Funding Proposal Form" that would be completed by anyone seeking provincial monies. The form asks for a detailed explanation of the proposed project, professional cost estimates, and appropriate contact information. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the "Funding Proposal Form" as proposed. The motion passed unanimously.**

In order to make fair decisions about proposal funding, Mary Lee offered a draft of guidelines for approving funding requests, clarifying the grounds of decision-making for the Executive Board. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the revised "Guidelines for Approving Funding Proposals." The motion passed unanimously.**

Detailing in written guidelines what authors of proposals needed to do to request funding for a project, the "Revised Approval and Administration of Funding Proposals from Bequest Interest" was presented by Mary Lee. **A motion was made and seconded to endorse the "Revised Approval and Administration of Funding Proposals from Bequest Interest." The motion passed unanimously.**

Mary Lee reviewed her report, "Financial Accounts' Backgrounds," recounting our current investments. She related that our Edward Jones' investment counselor felt our Certificates of Deposit (CDs) with earlier maturity dates were under-performing and suggested selling the two CDs with earlier maturity dates and reinvesting the monies in mutual funds. Following discussion, **a motion was made and seconded to authorize the selling of the lowest interest-bearing CDs and to reinvest the monies into mutual funds for a better projected return. The motion passed unanimously.**

The current budget (July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004) with projections for the next fiscal year was presented by Mary Lee. After discussion, **a motion was made and seconded to accept the budget reports. The motion passed unanimously.**

Ruth introduced Ed Shea, a Dominican Laity member with extensive experience in organizational strategic planning, group facilitation, and fund-raising and marketing for non-profits. He asked where we want to be in three or four years, what are our goals, and how are we going to get there. After discussion, **a motion was made and seconded to request the Executive Board to participate in a strategic planning process and to fashion materials to enable chapter involvement in the process in preparation for the next Provincial Council meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

(turn to

page 15)

Minutes from page 14 Cynthia Ricard explained the advantages of tax-exempt status. Delegates appreciated the preliminary work done prior to the presentation, but felt additional research particularly about ongoing costs, paperwork, administration, and corporate liabilities was needed before decision-making could proceed. **A motion was made and seconded to empower the President to investigate the requirements of 501C3 status. The motion passed unanimously.** Though not included in the motion, delegates requested Ruth report her findings at the next Provincial Council meeting, and she informally agreed to do so.

Edward Chong-Ling presented the recommendations based on the work of the ad hoc Formation Committee. He synthesized key aspects of the Western Province Dominican Laity Formation Program and proposed its adaptation and adoption for the Central Province. These materials could be used in Candidacy I and II. Amalgamation of materials used in St. Vincent Ferrer Chapter with the organizational scheme of the Western Province could create a solid program for people in the initiate phase. An exit interview for people departing the chapter was also recommended. **A motion was made and seconded that Edward Chong-Ling be elected Chair of the standing Formation Committee. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made that Louann Adcock, Lois Tomaszewski, Kathy Wagner, and Guy Murphy become members of the provincial Formation Committee. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made and seconded that the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Formation Committee be adopted. The motion passed unanimously.**

Ruth reported on the Dominican Laity Inter-Provincial Council (DLIPC) meeting. Laurie Biszko (Eastern Province) presented “The Dominican Charism of Preaching: An Inquiry” and asked for a response from our Provincial Council. **A motion was made and seconded that the Provincial Council of Dominican Laity of St. Albert the Great Province supports the first two recommendations but does not endorse the third. The motion passed by majority vote with two opposed, fourteen in favor, and no abstentions.** The DLIPC forwarded a recommendation to the Friars’ General Chapter that friars no longer be able to accept lay people into Dominican Laity independently. Friars also cannot disband a chapter.

Dominican Laity has been invited to attend and participate in Dominican preaching initiatives. Sharon Huizenga attended the Promoters of Preaching Conference for the Midwest Region last year. Such involvement would involve a fee of approximately \$200 annually and travel. Ruth observed that Dominican Laity should establish a Promoter of Preaching. **A motion was made and seconded that Dominican Laity join the Promoters of Preaching in the Midwest Region and nationally and that the Executive Board should appoint a Promoter of Preaching for the province. The motion passed unanimously.**

As Laity representative to PARABLE, Sharon Huizenga reported that PARABLE is facilitating a conversation of all branches of the United States Dominican Family to discuss formation of a Secretariat as mandated by the Master of the Order, Fr. Carlos Azpiroz Costa.

Dominican Laity provincial data has been managed by Ed Kolodziej, who has entered the data into Excel and developed a means to query the data. He has made a list of deceased members and is compiling a definitive listing of reception and profession dates.

Delegate exchanges during the course of the Provincial Council meeting produced a desire to investigate and promulgate improved ways of allowing others to discern a possible Dominican Lay vocation. **A motion was made and seconded to establish a standing Membership Committee in the province, which will design materials and approaches to facilitate membership development. The motion passed unanimously.** Delegates asked the Executive Board to finalize appointments to the newly-formed Membership Committee.

Ruth commended the delegates for their hard work and thanked everyone for their contributions. The next meeting should be in September 2005. Based on delegate recommendations, the following sites were rank ordered: 1. St. John Center for Youth and Family, Plymouth, MI; 2. Franciscan Retreat House, Prior Lake, MN; and 3. Sinsinawa Conference Center, Sinsinawa, WI. Preferred dates were rank ordered as: 1. October 27-30, 2005; 2. September 1-4, 2005; and 3. November 3-6, 2005. The delegates charged the President with doing the best possible, and all agreed to be as flexible as possible “to make things work.” Delegates expressed thanks for Ruth’s labors on our behalf, Fr. Motl’s generosity, and all who contributed to the meeting’s success.

*condensed from the Provincial Council Meeting Minutes, March 25-28, 2004
as respectfully submitted by Jill O’Brien, Provincial Council Secretary*

THE BEST POSSIBLE NEWS!

Someone once said, "A single volunteer is more valuable than ten forced workers." A volunteer to be the new editor was what I was hoping for, when with delight, I received just such an e-mail on July 28 from Joe Komadina of the Queen of the Holy Rosary Chapter in St. Louis! I remembered Joe from an earlier Provincial Council meeting, when he struck me as a person with a quick smile, an equally quick wit and the flexibility to be an editor. His resumé and chapter moderator's recommendation proved he had the experience and commitment as well. Joe and I are both accustomed to dealing with details, Joe, as an educator and I, as a registered nurse. The Executive Board of the Provincial Council agreed. Joe's editorship will begin with the Winter 2005 issue due out on January 1.

Chapter secretaries, please send your Chapter Meeting Report Forms to Joe Komadina at 6672 Oakland Avenue; St. Louis, MO 63139-3203. I know you will be as gracious in sharing information with him as you did with me.

As for me, having completing my second term as *Challenge* editor in June, I am ready to take a breath, re-introduce myself to my husband, and catch up on some long-postponed tasks. Thank you to all who made this job easier for me and, in turn, helped make this a better publication for everyone.

Mary Lee

Our Mission: Called to a deeper relationship of love and service to God, we are members of the Dominican Order, who commit to live the Dominican charism as lay people. In collaboration with the Dominican Family, we work to promote social justice and peace in society. Supported by prayer, study, community and ministry, we fulfill our vocation to proclaim the Gospel wherever we, as individuals, live and work.

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